

PROCLAMATION

LIGHTNING SAFETY AWARENESS WEEK

June 22-28, 2008

WHEREAS, Lightning is the second-leading cause of storm-related deaths in the United States, second only to floods and more deadly than tornadoes or hurricanes; and

WHEREAS, even in times of drought, damaging thunderstorms can strike quickly to cause significant damage; and

WHEREAS, lightning strikes are a significant threat in Pennsylvania, especially for people involved in the Commonwealth's many opportunities for outdoor recreation; and

WHEREAS, every year Pennsylvania ranks in the top 10 in lightning strike deaths and injuries, but more than 20 states record more annual lightning strikes than Pennsylvania; and

WHEREAS, citizens should listen to local radio, television, a weather channel or a NOAA (National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration) radio for information on severe weather; and

WHEREAS, the vast majority of lightning casualties can be easily, quickly, and cheaply prevented through simple, easy to follow safety guidelines; and

WHEREAS, there is a great need to increase public awareness of lightning threats and lightning safety guidelines; and

WHEREAS, the key to understanding the dangers of lightning is through education and awareness; and

WHEREAS, The National Weather Service has proclaimed Lightning Safety Awareness Week from June 22-28, 2008.

THEREFORE, I, Edward G. Rendell, Governor of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, do hereby proclaim June 22 – 28, 2008, as LIGHTNING SAFETY AWARENESS WEEK in Pennsylvania. I call upon all citizens, governmental, educational, and civic organizations to acquaint themselves with lightning threats, lightning safety guidelines, and recognize the invaluable contributions public education can make in preventing lightning deaths and injuries.

GIVEN under my hand and the Seal of the Governor, at the City of Harrisburg, on this tenth day of June in the year of our Lord two thousand and eight, and of the Commonwealth the two hundred and thirty-second.

EDWARD G. RENDELL
Governor